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COUNTRY

Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

1200160009-5

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 TOPIC

Soviet Troops in Neuruppin and at the Wittstock Troop Training Grounds

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 EVALUATION

see below

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

14 January to 12 February 1952

DATE OBTAINED

E PREPARED

5 March 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES

5

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 1 February 1952, source observed troops falling in between the garages and the southwestern section of the Fridericus Kaserne on Altruppin Allee, Neuruppin (N 53/Z 49). They formed 11 units, each with 2 or 3 officers, 5 to 10 NCOs and 70 EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia; and were subsequently seen moving into three buildings in the southwestern section of the installation. Intensive traffic of officers and sedans at two of these buildings indicated that the buildings housed a headquarters. In another building in the eastern section, [redacted] the commanding officer of a reconnaissance battalion in 1951. Several canvas-covered T-34/65 tanks were parked in front of the garages in the western section. A JS-3 tank was seen moving into another garage which was capable of sheltering 20 JS-3 tanks. A JS-2 tank stood in front of another garage in the eastern section of the installation. *

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2. On the evening of 14 January, the Fridericus Kaserne on Altruppin Allee was about 90 percent lighted. [redacted] effective 7 January 1952, only the motor vehicles with a green pass affixed to the windshield were allowed to move out of the installation.

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3. On seven days between 21 January and 2 February 1952, a total of 32 new, [redacted] JS-3 tanks were unloaded at the Altruppin railroad station and moved to the Fridericus Kaserne. Four more JS-3 tanks moved into the installation on 8 February, also coming from the Altruppin railroad station. There were 17 [redacted] JS-3 tanks loaded at the Altruppin railroad station with their crews on 6 February and 14 on 7 February. The tanks had come from the Fridericus Kaserne and were dispatched toward Neustadt (N 53/Z 18). On 12 February, 4 officers and 348 men from the Fridericus Kaserne were loaded on 11 boxcars at the Altruppin railroad station and dispatched toward Neustadt. The troops wore red-bordered black epaulets.

4. About 85 percent of the billets of the Friedrich Franz Kaserne on Fehrbellinerstrasse were lighted on the evening of 16 January. About 300 recruits received basic infantry training and practiced with 9 x 122-mm field howitzers and 4 x 37-mm AA guns. Trucks [redacted] towing a 37-mm AA gun, were seen moving out of the installation on 22 January. Other vehicles observed leaving the installation included:

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[REDACTED]

towing a 122-mm field howitzer, on 8 and 9 February. Eleven 122-mm field howitzers, 4 model M-13 rocket launchers and 12 x 37-mm AA guns were observed being cleaned in front of the gun sheds of the Friedrich Franz Kaserne on 2 February.

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5.

[REDACTED]

Each of the 17 trucks towed a 120-mm mortar. Twelve [REDACTED] JS-3 tanks drove out of the installation on 9 February.

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6. The troops on the Neuruppin post started field training on the Kuhburgberg drill field on 22 January, practicing from 8 a.m. to about 5 p.m. daily. On 6 and 7 February, a large-scale search for deserters, three tank officers and an air force paymaster was conducted at the post. The paymaster came from the unit in the Schuetzenhaus, also referred to as Unit Garov, and was said to have taken the cash of the unit with him. *

7. On 17 January, the Koenigstor Kaserne on Karl Liebknechtstrasse was occupied to capacity by about 400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets.

8. On 17 January, the See Kaserne on Karl Liebknechtstrasse was occupied by 600 to 700 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] stood in the barracks yard. Groups of 1 officer and 12 EM practiced with each tank. [REDACTED]

9. On 25 January, the Friedrich Franz Kaserne on Fehrbellinerstrasse was occupied to capacity by about 800 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Groups of 8 to 10 EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets practiced with 4 x 76.2-mm field guns and 2 x 57-mm AT guns in the barracks yard. Vehicles observed in the billeting area [REDACTED]

10. On 17 January, the hutment on Scholtenplatz was occupied by only a guard detail of about 20 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Twelve 120-mm mortars and 8 rocket launchers, all covered with canvas, were seen in the hutment. [REDACTED]

11. On the evenings between 28 January and 2 February 1952, all barracks buildings of the Friedrich Franz Kaserne on Fehrbellinerstrasse were lighted. Training activity observed at the installation involved: 10 unarmed soldiers drilling on 28 January; 16 soldiers practicing with two 122-mm field howitzers on 29 January; 2 officers and 30 men practicing with five 37-mm AA guns on 30 January; and 5 men practicing with a 37-mm AA gun on 31 January. [REDACTED]

12. The billets of the See Kaserne on Karl Liebknechtstrasse were about 75 percent lighted on the evening of 3 February. Crews of four soldiers each practiced with three 37-mm AA guns in the terrain along Scholtenstrasse on 23 and 24 January. A model M-13 rocket launcher stood in front of the garages on 30 January. *

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13. Prior to 18 January, [redacted] Colonel Koltsov (fnu) from the Hq 12th Tank Div had been replaced and sent back to the U.S.S.R. for reassignment.

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14. Prior to 18 January, an officer named Grebenshchikov (fnu) was identified [redacted] in the Fridericus Kaserne. He was said to be the unit's administrative officer. Administrative officers of other units in the Fridericus Kaserne included: Major Nikitin (fnu) [redacted] Lieutenant Colonel Zadorosni (fnu); and Captain Toropov (fnu), successor to Major Belov (fnu).

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15. Prior to 18 January, the See Kaserne on Karl Liebknechtstrasse quartered only one unit [redacted] and was equipped with tanks. The unit's administrative officer, Major Drobot (fnu), left for reassignment.

16. Prior to 18 January, Lieutenant Colonel Akshurin (fnu) was commanding officer of a unit in the Friedrich Franz Kaserne on Fehrbellinerstrasse. Major Dzhurumzhi (fnu) succeeded Major Vasilyev (fnu) as administrative officer of the unit.

17. Captain Pironov (fnu) was identified as the deputy to Cds Lieutenant Colonel Chubukov (fnu), chief of the komendatura for Kreis Neuruppin.

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18. On 4 January, [redacted] soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets was quartered in Gentzrode, 5 km north of Neuruppin. Three practice bridges, each about 3 meters wide and with a load capacity of 12 to 16 tons, were seen side by side over a shallow ditch near the entrance to the quarters. Major Frolov (fnu) was identified as the commanding officer, and Captain Boginski (fnu) as the supply officer, of the unit there.

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19. On 3 February, [redacted] only a guard detail was located at the Wittstock-Schweinrich (N 54/U 21) troop training grounds.

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20. [redacted] the following list of Soviet military installations and Soviet-occupied houses in and around Neuruppin:

Club Strandgarten

8 Warzechastrasse

23/24, 25 and 26 Karl Liebknechtstrasse

1 through 7 Scholtenstrasse

Koenigstor Kaserne, including Scholtenstrasse "An der Mauer", the Schmiede and former Finanzamt

See Kaserne

Hotels at 17, 18 and 20 Karl Liebknechtstrasse

Hotel at 5 Schifferstrasse

Post at 5 Karl Liebknechtstrasse

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Military post hospital at 139 Fehrbellinerstrasse, including Neubau, 27 Scholtenstrasse, Bahnschloesschen, Altbau, pharmacy, guardhouse on the left side.

Friedrich Franz Kaserne, including guardhouse, 2 Thomas-Mannstrasse, 1 through 3 Fehrbellinerstrasse

Paulinenauer Railroad Station, including Fehrbellinerstrasse, house of Schultheiss Firm, depot of Schultheiss Firm, 1 Trenckmannstrasse

House on Trenckmannstrasse, opposite the slaughterhouse

2 and 3 Junckerstrasse

Telegraph construction office on Junckerstrasse

1 to 4, 6 to 12, 14, and 16 to 18 Franz-Mueckerstrasse

Fontane School on Puschkinstrasse

Barns 1 and 2 on the extension of Praesidentenstrasse

School at 167 Wittstocker Allee

90 Wittstocker Allee

Target range

30 Gentzstrasse and the building opposite 30 Gentzstrasse

Schlossgarten, Strasse der Weltjugend

Hotels at 1 and 2 Strasse der Weltjugend

Bath in Brauerei Schoenbeck, Strasse der Weltjugend

Hotel, Gerhart Hauptmannstrasse

2 hotels on Strasse der Weltjugend

Baptistenheim at 67 Strasse der Weltjugend, including the main building and buildings Nos 66a, 64 and 63

1, 3 and 5 Eichendorffstrasse

27, 28, 30, and 34 Brockhoffstrasse

2, 4 and 6 Eichendorffstrasse

61 Strasse der Weltjugend

Waldschloesschen

Kreis hospital, Trafo-Station

Panzer Kaserne

Weinberg

Neumuehle

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Gentzrode

Estate Wulkow, including Schaeferrei, Schloss, Haus Peter and Forsthaus.

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* [] Comment. [] paragraphs 1 through 12 generally confirm previous conclusions regarding the identity of the units in the Fridericus Kaserne, the Friedrich-Franz Kaserne, the See Kaserne and the Koenigstor Kaserne. The 76.2-mm field guns and vehicles [] which belong to the 34th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt and are mentioned in paragraph 9, were also reported [] at the beginning of January 1952. The present report, therefore, cannot be considered a confirmation of the possible movement of components of the 34th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt from Drogen to Neuruppin. [] The AA guns and rocket launchers, mentioned in paragraph 12, were observed at the See Kaserne for the first time. According to other information, the Friedrich-Franz Kaserne is definitely believed to quarter the unidentified AAA regiment, and probably also the unidentified guards rocket launcher battalion of the 12th Gds Tank Div. Compare with the information in paragraph 4 []

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** [] Comment. [] confirms the 48th Gds Tank Regt of the 12th Gds Tank Div in the Fridericus Kaserne, Neuruppin, until 18 January 1952. [] confirms the 66th Gds Tank Regt of the 12th Gds Tank Div in the Fridericus Kaserne, Neuruppin until 18 January 1952. [] in connection with a unit in Gentzrode in the fall of 1951. According to the service color and the practice bridges [] must belong to an engineer unit, which is possibly the 205th Engr Bn of the 12th Gds Tank Div. Colonel Koltsov (fnu), Lieutenant Colonel Akchurin (fnu), Major Nikitin (fnu), Major Drobot (fnu), Gds Major Vasilyev (fnu), Captain Mironov (fnu) and Captain Boginski (fnu) are known in their respective positions from previous reports []

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